

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The strength in America depends upon democracy. We need to make sure that this is practiced through and through. The United States is powerful because we have this freedom to keep power in check, and so it is a positive right that the government take action to keep us, the people, properly informed and not exercise the third face of power in manipulation. Objectivity is so powerful and yet so fragile. Please keep it alive.